(c) whether the N-programme by India is continuing or is at present slow?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The news report is not correct.

Telgu-Ganga Project

412. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps of which the Telgu-Ganga Project stands;

(b) the steps taken by Government to take up the project in right earnest so as to solve the water problem to Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the cost of this project and funds proposed to be shared by the State and Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The Telugu Ganga Project was techno-economically examined and placed before the Advisory Committee in April, 1988. The Advisory Committee deferred consideration on the project due to non-resolution of the interstate issues. The project has, however, been cleared by the Ministry of Environment & Forests from environmental and forests angles in September, 1988 and October, 1988 respectively.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have scheduled release of 3 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) out of 15 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu for drinking water needs of Madras city by September, 1996.

(c) The latest estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1978 crores. An expenditure of Rs. 1034 crores has been incurred so far on the project. The Central Government does not provide any special assistance for the project. The Central assistance is in the form of block loans and grants not tied to any sector of development or the project. The cost of the project is shared by the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The share of Tamil Nadu in the project's cost is to the extent of Rs. 521 crores.

Appearance of mysterious flight over villages in Uttar Pradesh

413. SHRI K.R. MALKANI:
SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a mysterious flight over Lakhimpur Kheri village, Uttar Pradesh on May 13-14, 1996;

(b) whether there was a huge blast in the DRDO High Energy Material Research Laboratory at Kanchanbagh, Hyderabad on May 30, 1996;

(c) if so, whether Government have investigated the above said incidents; and

(d) if so, the findings in all these serious incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir. The local authorities had seen an IAF aircraft flying over Lakhimpur-Kheri area and presumed it was a foreign aircraft.

(b) to (d) An explosion occured in High Energy Material Research Laboratory at Hyderabad on 30th May, 1996. The detailed investigations into the causes of explosion are being carried out, based on which, remedial measures, both immediate and long term, will be taken for preventing recurrence of such incidents in future.

Waiting List of Telephone in Different Categories in Karnataka

414. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;